

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A laminar, thermally-conductive interface interposable intermediate a first heat transfer surface and an opposing second heat transfer surface to provide a thermally-conductive pathway therebetween, said interface having a first interface surface disposable in heat transfer contact with the first heat transfer surface and an opposing second interface surface disposable in heat transfer contact with the second heat transfer surface, said interface comprising:

a first layer formed of a flexible, lamellar graphite material consisting essentially of intercalated graphite flake which is formed into a sheet without the use of a binder, said first layer having a first interior surface and a first exterior surface defining said first interface surface of said interface; and

a second layer formed of a thermally-conductive phase-change material, said second layer having a second interior surface joined to the first interior surface of said first layer.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The interface of claim 1 wherein said phase-change material is form-stable at normal room temperature of about 25°C in a first phase and conformable to the second interface surface in a second phase, said phase-change material having a transition temperature above normal room temperature from said first phase to said second phase.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The interface of claim 2 wherein:

the first heat transfer surface is located on a heat-generating source having an operating temperature range above normal room temperature of from about 60-100°C; and

said transition temperature of said phase-change material is within the operating temperature said heat-generating source.

Claim 4 (original): The interface of claim 2 wherein said transition temperature of said phase-change material is between about 40-80°C.

Claim 5 (original): The interface of claim 3 wherein:

said heat-generating source is an electronic component; and

the second heat transfer surface is located on a thermal dissipation member.

Claim 6 (original): The interface of claim 5 wherein the thermal dissipation member is a heat sink or a circuit board.

Claim 7 (original): The interface of claim 1 wherein:

the first interface surface of said interface is substantially cleanly releasable from heat transfer contact with the first heat transfer surface; and

the second interface surface of said interface is bondable to the second heat transfer surface.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The interface of claim 7 wherein:

 said second layer has a second exterior surface which ~~defines~~ defines said second interface surface of said interface; and

 said phase-change material of said second layer is inherently tacky such that the second exterior surface thereof is adherable by said phase-change material to the second heat transfer surface.

Claim 9 (original): The interface of claim 1 wherein said phase-change material comprises an admixture of a polymeric component and one or more thermally-conductive fillers.

Claim 10 (original): The interface of claim 9 wherein said polymeric component comprises one or more resins, one or more waxes, or a blend of one or more waxes and one or more resins.

Claim 11 (original): The interface of claim 10 wherein said resins or waxes are selected from the group consisting of thermoplastics, pressure sensitive adhesives, paraffinic waxes, and blends thereof.

Claim 12 (original): The interface of claim 9 wherein said one or more thermally-conductive fillers is selected from the group consisting of boron nitride, titanium diboride, aluminum nitride, silicon carbide, graphite, metals, metal oxides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (original): The interface of claim 9 wherein said phase-change material comprises between about 20-80% by weight of said one or more thermally-conductive fillers.

Claim 14 (original): The interface of claim 9 wherein said phase-change material has a thermal conductivity of between about 0.1-5.0 W/m-K.

Claim 15 (original): The interface of claim 1 wherein said first layer has a thickness of between about 2-20 mils (50-500 μm), and said second layer has a thickness of between about 2-20 mils (50-500 μm).

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (original): The interface of claim 1 wherein said interface has a thermal impedance of less than about $1^\circ\text{C}\cdot\text{in}^2/\text{W}$ ($6^\circ\text{C}\cdot\text{cm}^2/\text{W}$).

Claim 18 (original): The interface of claim 1 wherein said first layer has a thermal impedance of between about $0.03\text{--}0.15^\circ\text{C}\cdot\text{in}^2/\text{W}$ ($0.18\text{--}0.9^\circ\text{C}\cdot\text{cm}^2/\text{W}$).

Claim 19 (original): The interface of claim 1 wherein said second layer has a thermal impedance of less than about $0.2^\circ\text{C}\cdot\text{in}^2/\text{W}$ ($1.2^\circ\text{C}\cdot\text{cm}^2/\text{W}$).

Claim 20 (currently amended): A thermal management assembly comprising:

- a first heat transfer surface;
- a second heat transfer surface opposing said first heat transfer surface; and
- a laminar, thermally-conductive interface interposed intermediate said first and said second heat transfer surface to provide a thermally-conductive pathway therebetween, said interface having a first interface surface disposed in heat transfer contact with said first heat transfer surface and an opposing second interface surface disposed in heat transfer contact with said second heat transfer surface, said interface comprising:
 - a first layer formed of a flexible, lamellar graphite material consisting essentially of intercalated graphite flake which is formed into a sheet without the use of a binder, said first layer having a first interior surface and a first exterior surface defining said first interface surface of said interface; and
 - a second layer formed of a thermally-conductive phase-change material, said second layer having a second interior surface joined to the first interior surface of said first layer.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 20 wherein said phase-change material is form-stable at normal room temperature of about 25°C in a first phase and conformable to the second interface surface in a second phase, said phase-change material having a transition temperature above normal room temperature from said first phase to said second phase.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 21 wherein:

- said first heat transfer surface is located on a heat-generating source having an operating temperature range above normal room temperature of from about 60-100°C; and
- said transition temperature of said phase-change material is within the operating temperature said heat-generating source..

Claim 23 (original): The assembly of claim 21 wherein said transition temperature of said phase-change material is between about 40-80°C.

Claim 24 (original): The assembly of claim 22 wherein:

- said heat-generating source is an electronic component; and
- said second heat transfer surface is located on a thermal dissipation member.

Claim 25 (original): The assembly of claim 24 wherein said thermal dissipation member is a heat sink or a circuit board.

Claim 26 (original): The assembly of claim 20 wherein:

- said first interface surface of said interface is substantially cleanly releasable from heat transfer contact with said first heat transfer surface; and
- said second interface surface of said interface is bondable to said second heat transfer surface.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 26 wherein:

 said second layer has a second exterior surface which defines defines said second interface surface of said interface; and

 said phase-change material of said second layer is inherently tacky and adheres said second exterior surface thereof to said second heat transfer surface.

Claim 28 (original): The assembly of claim 20 wherein said phase-change material comprises an admixture of a polymeric component and one or more thermally-conductive fillers.

Claim 29 (original): The assembly of claim 28 wherein said polymeric component comprises one or more resins, one or more waxes, or a blend of one or more waxes and one or more resins.

Claim 30 (original): The assembly of claim 29 wherein said resins or waxes are selected from the group consisting of thermoplastics, pressure sensitive adhesives, paraffinic waxes, and blends thereof.

Claim 31 (original): The assembly of claim 28 wherein said one or more thermally-conductive fillers is selected from the group consisting of boron nitride, titanium diboride, aluminum nitride, silicon carbide, graphite, metals, metal oxides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 32 (original): The assembly of claim 28 wherein said phase-change material comprises between about 20-80% by weight of said one or more thermally-conductive fillers.

Claim 33 (original): The assembly of claim 28 wherein said phase-change material has a thermal conductivity of between about 0.1-5 W/m-K.

Claim 34 (original): The assembly of claim 20 wherein said first layer has a thickness of between about 2-20 mils (50-500 μm), and said second layer has a thickness of between about 2-20 mils (50-500 μm).

Claim 35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (original): The assembly of claim 20 wherein said interface has a thermal impedance of less than about $1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\text{-in}^2/\text{W}$ ($6 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\text{-cm}^2/\text{W}$).

Claim 37 (original): The assembly of claim 20 wherein said first layer has a thermal impedance of between about $0.03\text{-}0.15 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\text{-in}^2/\text{W}$ ($0.18\text{-}0.9 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\text{-cm}^2/\text{W}$).

Claim 38 (original): The assembly of claim 20 wherein said second layer has a thermal impedance of less than about $0.2 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\text{-in}^2/\text{W}$ ($1.2 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\text{-cm}^2/\text{W}$).

Claim 39 (currently amended): A laminar, thermally-conductive interface interposable intermediate a first heat transfer surface and an opposing second heat transfer surface to provide a thermally-conductive pathway therebetween, said interface having a first interface surface disposable in heat transfer contact with the first heat transfer surface and an opposing second

interface surface disposable in heat transfer contact with the second heat transfer surface, said interface comprising:

a first layer formed consisting essentially of a flexible tin foil material, said first layer having a first interior surface and a first exterior surface defining said first interface surface of said interface; and

a second layer formed of a thermally-conductive phase-change material, said second layer having a second interior surface joined to the first interior surface of said first layer.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The interface of claim 39 wherein said phase-change material is form-stable at normal room temperature of about 25°C in a first phase and conformable to the second interface surface in a second phase, said phase-change material having a transition temperature above normal room temperature from said first phase to said second phase.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The interface of claim 40 wherein:

the first heat transfer surface is located on a heat-generating source having an operating temperature range above normal room temperature of from about 60-100°C; and

said transition temperature of said phase-change material is within the operating temperature said heat-generating source.

Claim 42 (original): The interface of claim 40 wherein said transition temperature of said phase-change material is between about 40-80°C.

Claim 43 (original): The interface of claim 41 wherein:

said heat-generating source is an electronic component; and

the second heat transfer surface is located on a thermal dissipation member.

Claim 44 (original): The interface of claim 43 wherein the thermal dissipation member is a heat sink or a circuit board.

Claim 45 (original): The interface of claim 39 wherein:

the first interface surface of said interface is substantially cleanly releasable from heat transfer contact with the first heat transfer surface; and

the second interface surface of said interface is bondable to the second heat transfer surface.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The interface of claim 45 wherein:

said second layer has a second exterior surface which defines said second interface surface of said interface; and

said phase-change material of said second layer is inherently tacky such that the second exterior surface thereof is adherable by said phase-change material to the second heat transfer surface.

Claim 47 (original): The interface of claim 39 wherein said phase-change material comprises an admixture of a polymeric component and one or more thermally-conductive fillers.

Claim 48 (original): The interface of claim 47 wherein said polymeric component comprises one or more resins, one or more waxes, or a blend of one or more waxes and one or more resins.

Claim 49 (original): The interface of claim 48 wherein said resins or waxes are selected from the group consisting of thermoplastics, pressure sensitive adhesives, paraffinic waxes, and blends thereof.

Claim 50 (original): The interface of claim 47 wherein said one or more thermally-conductive fillers is selected from the group consisting of boron nitride, titanium diboride, aluminum nitride, silicon carbide, graphite, metals, metal oxides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 51 (original): The interface of claim 47 wherein said phase-change material comprises between about 20-80% by weight of said one or more thermally-conductive fillers.

Claim 52 (original): The interface of claim 47 wherein said phase-change material has a thermal conductivity of between about 0.1-5.0 W/m-K.

Claim 53 (original): The interface of claim 39 wherein said first layer has a thickness of between about 1 mil (25 μm) or less, and said second layer has a thickness of between about 2-20 mils (50-500 μm).

Claim 54 (original): The interface of claim 39 wherein said interface has a thermal impedance of less than about 1 $^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{in}^2/\text{W}$ (6 $^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{cm}^2/\text{W}$).

Claim 55 (original): The interface of claim 39 wherein said first layer has a thermal conductivity of about 60 W/m-K.

Claim 56 (original): The interface of claim 39 wherein said second layer has a thermal impedance of less than about 0.2 $^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{in}^2/\text{W}$ (1.2 $^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{cm}^2/\text{W}$).

Claim 57 (currently amended): A thermal management assembly comprising:

a first heat transfer surface;

a second heat transfer surface opposing said first heat transfer surface; and

a laminar, thermally-conductive interface interposed intermediate said first and said second heat transfer surface to provide a thermally-conductive pathway therebetween, said interface having a first interface surface disposed in heat transfer contact with said first heat transfer surface and an opposing second interface surface disposed in heat transfer contact with said second heat transfer surface, said interface comprising:

a first layer formed consisting essentially of a flexible tin foil material, said first layer having a first interior surface and a first exterior surface defining said first interface surface of said interface; and

a second layer formed of a thermally-conductive phase-change material, said second layer having a second interior surface joined to the first interior surface of said first layer.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 57 wherein said phase-change material is form-stable at normal room temperature of about 25°C in a first phase and conformable to the second interface surface in a second phase, said phase-change material having a transition temperature above normal room temperature from said first phase to said second phase.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 58 wherein:

 said first heat transfer surface is located on a heat-generating source having an operating temperature range above normal room temperature of from about 60-100°C; and

 said transition temperature of said phase-change material is within the operating temperature said heat-generating source.

Claim 60 (original): The assembly of claim 58 wherein said transition temperature of said phase-change material is between about 40-80°C.

Claim 61 (original): The assembly of claim 59 wherein:

 said heat-generating source is an electronic component; and

 said second heat transfer surface is located on a thermal dissipation member.

Claim 62 (original): The assembly of claim 61 wherein said thermal dissipation member is a heat sink or a circuit board.

Claim 63 (original): The assembly of claim 57 wherein:

 said first interface surface of said interface is substantially cleanly releasable from heat transfer contact with said first heat transfer surface; and

 said second interface surface of said interface is bondable to said second heat transfer surface.

Claim 64 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 63 wherein:

 said second layer has a second exterior surface which defines said second interface surface of said interface; and

 said phase-change material of said second layer is inherently tacky and adheres said second exterior surface thereof to said second heat transfer surface.

Claim 65 (original): The assembly of claim 57 wherein said phase-change material comprises an admixture of a polymeric component and one or more thermally-conductive fillers.

Claim 66 (original): The assembly of claim 65 wherein said polymeric component comprises one or more resins, one or more waxes, or a blend of one or more waxes and one or more resins.

Claim 67 (original): The assembly of claim 66 wherein said resins or waxes are selected from the group consisting of thermoplastics, pressure sensitive adhesives, paraffinic waxes, and blends thereof.

Claim 68 (original): The assembly of claim 65 wherein said one or more thermally-conductive fillers is selected from the group consisting of boron nitride, titanium diboride, aluminum nitride, silicon carbide, graphite, metals, metal oxides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 69 (original): The assembly of claim 65 wherein said phase-change material comprises between about 20-80% by weight of said one or more thermally-conductive fillers.

Claim 70 (original): The assembly of claim 65 wherein said phase-change material has a thermal conductivity of between about 0.1-5 W/m-K.

Claim 71 (original): The assembly of claim 57 wherein said first layer has a thickness of about 1 mil (25 μ m) or less, and said second layer has a thickness of between about 2-20 mils (50-500 μ m).

Claim 72 (original): The assembly of claim 57 wherein said interface has a thermal impedance of less than about 1 $^{\circ}$ C-in²/W (6 $^{\circ}$ C-cm²/W).

Claim 73 (original): The assembly of claim 57 wherein said first layer has a thermal conductivity of about 60 W/m-K.

Claim 74 (original): The assembly of claim 57 wherein said second layer has a thermal impedance of less than about 0.2 $^{\circ}$ C-in²/W (1.2 $^{\circ}$ C-cm²/W).